

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION OF:

APPLICANT : Namon A. Nassef

SERIAL NO. : UNASSIGNED

ART UNIT: UNASSIGNED

FILED : HEREWITH

EXAMINER: UNASSIGNED

FOR : BAIT CHUMMER

THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

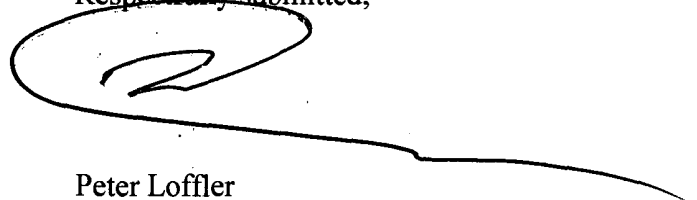
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

35 U.S.C. 6; 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98

Submitted herewith are copies of prior art domestic patents, foreign patents and/or publications identified and discussed, as necessary, in the specification of the above identified application under the heading: "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION." This prior art, if any, is identified on the attached PTO-1449 form.

The discussion of these prior art patents and/or publications in the attached specification is believed to satisfy the duty to disclose requirement as set forth in the above identified statute and rules.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Loffler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Compleat if Known		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number		
		Filing Date		
		First Named Inventor	<i>Nelson A. Nussup</i>	
		Art Unit		
		Examiner Name		
Sheet		of	Attorney Docket Number	<i>230339</i>

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-636365201	4-2-2002	Spine Ill.	
		US-6012368	1-11-2000	Gicesky	
		US-5720124	2-24-1998	Wentzel et al.	
		US-5205778	4-27-1993	Korikuch	
		US-4685242	8-11-1987	Stanish	
		US-3249257	5-3-1966	Nolt	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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